

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05

IGA-02 SCA-01 L-03 /072 W

----- 111619

O P 081241Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9458

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LE

SUBJECT: ICRC ACTIVITY

1. CONVERS, CHARGE OF ICRC ME OPERATION, CALLED ON ME TODAY.
HE HAS JUST COME FROM DAMASCUS AND WILL REPORT TO GENEVA.

2. HE DID NOT TRAVEL TO LEBANON BUT TALKED WITH
BOTH ICRC TEAMS IN DAMASCUS. HIS REPORT IS SOMEWHAT
REASSURING. ICRC TEAM IN BOTH AKKAR (NORTH) AND BEKAA
REGIONS ARE TRAVELLING FAIRLY WIDELY. THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET
EASILY FROM CHRISTIAN TO MOSLEM VILLAGES AND VICE VERSA.
DOCTORS REPORT THAT REMOTE VILLAGES IN MOUNTAIN AREAS
HAVE BEEN WITHOUT MEDICAL CARE FOR SIX MONTHS OR MORE
AS ALL FORMERLY LEBANESE OPERATED DISPENSARIES AND
CLINICS HAVE FOLDED. FOOD LIMITED IN RANGE AND FLOUR
SCARCE BUT THEY SAW NO SIGNS OF MALNUTRITION. THEY
WILL TRY FOR POWDERED MILK DISTRIBUTION FOR CHILDREN.

3. ICRC FOUND BAALBECK HOSPITAL NON-FUNCTIONING. WILL
SEND TEAM THERE ASAP.

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4. CONVERS MET WITH RED CRESCENT REPS OF SYRIA, JORDAN,

KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHERS. UWAITIS ACCUSED
ICRC OF HANDLING ONLY CHRISTIANS; JORDANIANS AND SYRIANS
DEFENDED ICRC, SAYING THEY KNOW HOW IT WORKS. KUWAITIS
ALSO DEMANDED THAT ICRC DENOUNCE ISRAELI ACTION ON
WEST BANK WHICH WAS REFUSED. HE IS NOT AT ALL OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT ARAB SUPPORT. SAUDIS TOLD HIM THEY HAD GIVEN
\$10 MILLION TO KARAEME FOR AID AND THAT WAS ENOUGH. ICRC,
OF COURSE, WILL NEVER GET ANY OF THAT.

5. I WILL VISIT ICRC HOSPITAL.THERE WILL BE TV. I WILL MAKE
A STATEMENT SUPPORTING ICRC ACTIVITIES AS HUMANE AND
NON-DISCRIMINATORY.
BROWN

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